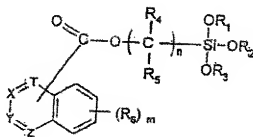


IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-54: Cancelled

55. (Currently Amended) A  $[[S]]_5$  silyl alkyl ester having the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are equal or different and represent alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

$R_4$  and  $R_5$  each represent hydrogen,

$n$  is an integer from 3 to 5,

$R_6$  is a substituent selected from halogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, alkoxy, arylether, substituted and unsubstituted amino group, carboxy group, carboxylic acid ester group, carboxylic acid amide group, sulfonic acid group, sulfonic acid ester group, sulfonyl, thio, thioether and nitro,

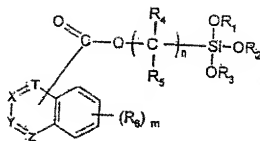
$m$  is an integer from  $[[0]]_1$  to 4,

T, X, Y and Z each represent carbon,

a benzo group, which is substituted  $m$ -fold with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on one of the bonds T-X, X-Y or Y-Z to form a trinuclear aromatic ring system, wherein the silyl

alkyl ester group is substituted at the middle ring of said trinuclear aromatic ring system.

56. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 55, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent alkyl.
57. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~Claim 10~~ claim 55, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are selected, independently of one another, from methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, 2-methylpropyl, 1-methylpropyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl.
58. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 12~~ claim 57, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent methyl or ethyl.
59. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 55, wherein a benzo group, which is m-fold substituted with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on the X-Y bond.
60. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~Claim 14~~ claim 59, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on the X-Y bond and  $m=0$ .
61. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 10~~ claim 55, wherein a benzo group, which is m-fold substituted with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond.
62. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~Claim 16~~ claim 61, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond and  $m=0$ .
63. (Currently Amended) A  $[[S]]$ silyl alkyl ester having the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are equal or different and represent alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

$R_4$  and  $R_5$  are equal or different and represent hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

$n$  is an integer from 1 to 10,

$R_6$  is a substituent selected from ~~halogen, alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryloxy,~~  
substituted and unsubstituted amino group, carboxy group, carboxylic acid ester group,  
carboxylic acid amide group, sulfonic acid group, sulfonic acid ester group, sulfonyl, thio,  
thioether and nitro,

$m$  is an integer from  $[[0]]$  1 to 4,

T, X, Y and Z each represent carbon,

a benzo group, which is substituted  $m$ -fold with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond to form a trinuclear aromatic ring system, wherein the silyl alkyl ester group is substituted at the middle ring of said trinuclear aromatic ring system.

64. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~Claim 18~~ claim 63, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent alkyl.
65. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~Claim 18~~ claim 63, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are selected, independently of one another, from methyl, ethyl,  $n$ -propyl, iso-propyl,  $n$ -butyl, 2-methylpropyl, 1-methylpropyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl.
66. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 20~~ claim 65, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent methyl or ethyl.

67. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 18~~ claim 63, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> each represent hydrogen.
68. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 18~~ claim 63, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 5.
69. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 18~~ claim 63, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond and m=0.
70. (Currently Amended) A composition ~~which that~~ comprises at least one silyl alkyl ester according to ~~claim 10 or 18~~ claim 55 or 63 and at least one further reactive silane.
71. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~Claim 25~~ claim 70, wherein the reactive silane is selected from alkoxyxilanes and halogen silanes.
72. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~Claim 25~~ claim 70, wherein the reactive silane comprises triethoxysilane (HTEOS), tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), methyltriethoxysilane (MTEOS), dimethyldiethoxysilane, tetramethoxysilane (TMOS), methyltrimethoxysilane (MTMOS), trimethoxysilane, dimethyldimethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane (PTEOS), phenyltrimethoxysilane (PTMOS), diphenyldiethoxysilane, diphenyldimethoxysilane, trichlorosilane, methyltrichlorosilane, ethyltrichlorosilane, phenyltrichlorosilane, tetrachlorosilane, dichlorosilane, methyldichlorosilane, dimethyldichlorosilane, chlorotriethoxysilane, chlorotrimethoxysilane, chloromethyltriethoxysilane, chloroethyltriethoxysilane, chlorophenyltriethoxysilane, chloromethyltrimethoxysilane, chloroethyltrimethoxysilane and chlorophenyltrimethoxysilane.
73. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 27~~ 72, wherein the reactive silane is selected from triethoxysilane (HTEOS), tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), methyltriethoxysilane (MTEOS), tetramethoxysilane (TMOS), methyltrimethoxysilane (MTMOS), phenyltriethoxysilane (PEOS) and phenyltrimethoxysilane (PTMOS).
74. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 25~~ claim 70, which comprises a solvent or solvent mixture.
75. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~Claim 29~~ claim 74, wherein the solvent or

solvent mixture comprises at least one component selected from water, linear or branched alkyl alcohol having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched ketone having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched carboxylic acid ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~and~~ or linear or branched carboxylic acid amide having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

76. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~Claim 29~~ claim 74, wherein the solvent or solvent mixture comprises at least one component selected from water, acetone, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, butanol, methylisobutylketone, methoxypropanol, propoxypropanol, ethyl acetate and propyl acetate.
77. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~claim 25~~ claim 70, which comprises an aqueous solution of at least one protonic acid or an aqueous solution of at least one acid anhydride.
78. (Currently Amended) A composition according to ~~Claim 32~~ claim 77, wherein the protonic acid is nitric acid.

Claims 79-95: Cancelled.